

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, claim 1 has been amended to remove the recitation of "hydrogen" from the definitions of R¹ to R³. New claims 16, 17, 18 and 19 are supported by originally filed claim 11 as well as the present specification at page 24, lines 21-30. Also, a minor typographical error has been corrected in the specification at page 39. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

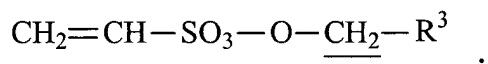
In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by each of the following five references: Tesoro et al., USP 3,406,004; and Caplus Abstract DN 124:87695 to Soloshonok et al.; Caplus Abstract DN 113:23058 to Popov et al.; Caplus Abstract DN 78:72647 to Vali et al.; Caplus Abstract DN 60:82680 to DE 1163797.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the above rejections.

The cited references fail to suggest or disclose the subject matter of claim 1. In particular, these references fail to suggest or disclose the sulfonate compound according to formula (1) of claim 1, since R¹, R² and R³ in formula (1) cannot be hydrogen. Thus, the compounds encompassed by claim 1 do not include the following formula:



Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to present a valid case of anticipation. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter


The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-15 are allowed. Since Applicants have overcome the rejection concerning claim 1, Applicants submit that each of claims 1-15 are allowable. Further, newly added claims 16-19 depend upon allowable claims and are thus also allowable. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowability directed to all of the currently pending claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Craig A. McRobbie, Reg. No. 42,874 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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